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**State Government & Tribal Affairs**  
**Committee**

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**HB 2138**

**Brief Description:** Establishing national Korean war veterans armistice day.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Ormsby and Bailey.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Recognizes July 27 as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day and requires that the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag be flown by public entities on that date.
- Specifies the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

**Hearing Date:** 1/9/12

**Staff:** Cece Clynch (786-7195).

**Background:**

**Specially Recognized Days and Dates.**

Although not legal holidays, the following days are specially recognized in statute:

- Korean-American Day (January 13);
- Columbus Day (October 12);
- Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day (April 9);
- Washington Army and Air National Guard Day (January 26);
- Purple Heart Recipient Recognition Day (August 7);
- Washington State Children's Day (Second Sunday in October);
- Mother Joseph Day (April 16);
- Marcus Whitman Day (September 4);
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7);
- Civil Liberties Day of Remembrance (February 19); and

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- Juneteenth, a Day of Remembrance for the Day the Slaves Learned of their Freedom (June 19).

**POW/MIA Flag.**

Public entities are required to display the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag on the following days:

- Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday in May);
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May);
- Flag Day (June 14);
- Independence Day (July 4);
- National POW/MIA Recognition Day (No date or day is specified); and
- Veterans' Day (November 11).

**Korean War Armistice.**

An "armistice" is defined as an agreement between opposing armies to suspend hostilities in order to discuss peace terms.

On July 27, 1953, the Korean War Armistice Agreement was signed between the Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, on the one hand, and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, on the other hand, concerning a military armistice in Korea. Under the agreement, a demarcation line was fixed and a demilitarized zone was established. The agreement was to remain in effect until expressly superseded either by mutually acceptable amendments and additions, or by provision in an appropriate agreement for a peaceful settlement at a political level between both sides. To date, a peace treaty has not been signed.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Legislature declares that July 27 be specifically recognized as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. This date is not to be considered a legal holiday for any purpose. The POW/MIA flag, together with the United States and Washington flags, must be displayed by public entities on this date.

The day on which the POW/MIA flag is to be displayed with the United States and Washington flags in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day is specified as the third Friday in September.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.